



Global AIDS Program

Country Profile — *Brazil FY2004*

Under the direction of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator's Office, the HHS/CDC Global AIDS Program (GAP) is a proud partner in the unified U.S. Government effort to implement the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. GAP helps resource-constrained countries prevent HIV infection; improve treatment, care and support for people living with HIV; and build capacity and infrastructure to address the global HIV/AIDS pandemic.



HIV/AIDS Situation in Brazil

HIV Infected: 660,000¹

AIDS Deaths: 15,000¹

AIDS Orphans: Not available¹

The rate of reported AIDS cases increased from 10.6 per 100,000 in 1992 to a high of 18.7 per 100,000 in 1998. Brazil has experienced a stabilizing trend with rates of 16.5, 16.4, and 14.8 per 100,000 in 1999, 2000, and 2001, respectively. In the last decade, heterosexual transmission of reported AIDS cases grew from 25.8 percent in 1991 to 56.1 percent in 2002. Since 1998, the death rate from AIDS has stabilized at 6.3 per 100,000. This tendency is attributed to Brazil's guarantee of access to free antiretroviral (ARV) drugs since 1996.

About GAP Brazil

Year Established: 2001

FY 2004 Budget: \$2 million US

In-country Staffing: 2 CDC Direct Hires; 2 Locally Employed Staff; 1 Contractor

In FY2004, GAP Brazil marked its second year of technical and material collaboration with the Brazilian Ministry of Health (MOH) in HIV/AIDS prevention and control efforts in Brazil. It also marked two years of collocation within the Brazilian National AIDS Program. CDC GAP first established its terms of cooperation with the MOH, National Coordination for STDs and AIDS (NAP) mid-year 2001.

In FY2004, GAP Brazil completed several initiatives started over two years ago. The RARE studies and the Rapid HIV Test Initiative were brought to completion. In 2003, a national rapid test algorithm was established (Determine + Rapid Check, with Uni-Gold as the tie-breaker).

One of CDC Brazil's innovative 2004 projects is the establishment of technical assistance to Lusophone Africa. The "South-to-South Initiative" is a partnership between CDC -GAP Brazil, Angola and Mozambique to provide technical assistance to build capacity in Angola and Mozambique.

In FY2004, CDC also worked to strengthen domestic laboratory surveillance, including activities to develop guidelines for the use of rapid HIV tests, design quality control systems and to work on systems to monitor AIDS drug resistance issues.

Challenges to Program Implementation

The leadership of Brazil's National Program for STD/HIV/AIDS changed hands again in the past year. As changes in program leadership occur, new priorities are established. This often poses challenges in the implementation of projects planned by the prior administration and can lead to their delay or elimination.

New rules and regulations placed on contractors and public employees were established in FY04. This was an obstacle to project implementation as there was a large turnover of personnel in the national program and at times, new contacts and counterparts had to be established.

Website:
www.cdc.gov/gap



¹ UNAIDS, Report of the Global AIDS Epidemic, 2004.

FY2004 GAP Brazil Achievements

Critical Interventions for HIV/AIDS Prevention

- ◆ Conducted a study to assess the impact of rapid test use in voluntary HIV counseling and testing (VCT) clinics. Results were positive, but reservations over reliability, being under-prepared for results, privacy, and lack of psychological support services were expressed and are currently being addressed.
- ◆ Completed a cost-effectiveness evaluation study of HIV rapid tests.
- ◆ Assisted the National AIDS Program to develop laboratory quality control and assurance systems for HIV rapid testing.

Critical Intervention for HIV/AIDS Surveillance and Infrastructure Development

- ◆ Assisted in developing a national algorithm for HIV rapid testing.
- ◆ Provided assistance and support for five large projects undertaken by the MOH M&E Unit. These included: 1) the development of MONITORAIDS- a web-based information system that allows internal and external partners to access the Brazilian National AIDS Program Indicators; 2) implementation and analysis of a Behavioral Surveillance Survey; 3) the development of a monitoring and evaluation plan for five Centers of Excellence in Monitoring and Evaluation; 4) development of a certificate and master's level course in monitoring and evaluation; 5) evaluation of Brazil's Vertical Transmission Control Program.
- ◆ Completed the rapid assessment, response and evaluation (RARE) projects, begun more than two years ago, to help local nongovernmental organizations develop additional skills and expertise.
- ◆ Planned a comprehensive laboratory initiative designed primarily to support the Brazilian National AIDS Program's laboratory surveillance infrastructure.